

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7110

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 1100

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, PFOR, EGEN, APER JO

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS

REF (A) STATE 037591, (B) AMMAN 0710

1. RE QUESTIONS POSED REF A PARA 7.1 REF B DESCRIBES JORDAN'S PRIMARY INTEREST IN MIDDLE EAST ISSUES ITS OPENNESS TO DISCUSSION OF OTHER MULTILATERAL ISSUES, AND CONSEQUENCES FOR OUR EFFORTS TO INFLUENCE JORDAN'S POSITION IN MULTILATERAL FORA. MEMO TO THE FILES OF 25 JANUARY ("JORDAN AND UN MATTERS") WITH COPIES TO IO/UNP AND NEA/ARN DESCRIBED JORDANIAN DECISION MAKING PROCESS ON ISSUES TAKEN UP BY INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS SUCH AS UN AND HOW EMBASSY AND USUN CAN PLUG IN FOR INFLUENCE. SUBSEQUENTLY, WE HAVE LEARNED THAT GOJ IS NOT YET FOCUSING ON ANY MULTILATERAL ISSUES OR CONFERENCES FOR 1976 EXCEPT MIDDLE EAST QUESTIONS LIKELY TO ARISE AT ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING IN CAIRO IN MID-MARCH, ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE IN ISTANBUL IN EARLY MAY, AND NAC IN LATE SUMMER. AMMAN 0945 REPORTED GOJ'S INTEREST IN ELECTION OF ITS NATIONAL TO MEMBERSHIP ON UNESCO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

2. GOJ'S PRESENT UN PERM REP, AMBASSADOR SHARAF,
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IS CLOSE RELATIVE AND ADVISOR OF KING HUSSEIN AND

IS HIGHLY INTELLIGENT, ARTICULATE, EXPERIENCED, AND RESPECTED OFFICIAL IN HIS OWN RIGHT, GIVING HIM GOOD POWER BASE FROM WHICH TO ARGUE HIS POINT OF VIEW ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES WITHIN GOJ. WHILE HE DOUBTLESS HAS LEEWAY TO FREEWHEEL AT UN AND IN OTHER DELEGATIONS HE MAY HEAD (E.G., NAC), HE USUALLY RETURNS TO AMMAN BEFORE OPENING OF MEETINGS AND HELPS GOJ ARRIVE AT GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR ITS DELEGATIONS. HEADS OF OTHER DELEGATIONS ARE GENERALLY GIVEN GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS BY GOJ BUT TEND TO BLEND IN WITH ARAB CONSENSUS AS ISSUE APPROACHES VOTE. MOREOVER, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IS PRIME MINISTER RIFAI WHO WOULD NOT HESITATE TO CABLE INSTRUCTIONS TO GOJ DELEGATIONS ONCE HIS ATTENTION AROUSED. EMBASSY HAS GOOD ACCESS TO PRIME MINISTER.

3. JORDANIANS ARE GENERALLY RECEPTIVE, ALTHOUGH NOT ALWAYS FULLY RESPONSIVE, TO U.S. APPROACHES THROUGH EMBASSY ON MULTILATERAL MATTERS. WE HAVE FREQUENT AND FRIENDLY CONTACT WITH THE KEY JORDANIAN FIGURES FORMULATING GOJ POLICY ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES. PICKERING

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